(b) whether it is also a fact that Ministry of Rural Development has drawn up an action plan to stop fragmentation of land; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is concerned about the fragmentation of land holdings. Under the scheme of computerisation of Land Records, funds are provided to the State Governments to computerise such records down to taluka level. Besides, a National Committee to look into all aspects of consolidation of land holdings and updating of land records through technological interventions has also been set up and the Committee has already commenced its work.

Villages connected with roads

†1487. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government for the construction of roads in rural areas;

(b) whether any scheme is being formulated with regard to connecting all the villages having population of five hundred with pucca road;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of villages in each State which has population of more than five hundred but which had not been connected by roads as on 31st December, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Central Government is in the process of drawing up a National Programme for Rural Connectivity, the contours of which are being formulated. A National Rural Road Development Committee

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(NRRDC) has been set up whose report is awaited.

(d) Data required for formulation of the Programme, including population of villages, is being compiled. Data (As on 31st December, 1999) is not immediately available.

Suggestions of the National Institute of Rural Development

† 1488. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development has published its first report to give suggestions for rural development;

(b) whether Government have formulated any action plan to implement its suggestions after having gone through the report; and

(c) if so, what are the outlines of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) The National Institute of Rural Development have recently brought out the first *India Rural Development Report—1999* which was released by the Prime Minister of India in February, 2000. No separate Action Plan has been formulated in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.